

Well, let's start with Senator WEBB, who's not running for reelection. He's been in the Chamber now 5½ years. No stated position. It's kind of hard to believe you can be a U.S. Senator who has nuclear waste on site and does not have a stated position on whether you want nuclear waste stored right next to a recreational lake in your State or moved underneath a mountain in the desert. Senator WARNER came 2 years after Senator WEBB. He's been there 4 years. No stated position.

Why is this concerning? Well, we go to the total tally of our 100 U.S. Senators based on either votes taken in the Senate or public statements rendered, and this is what we have as of today. Remember, I've come to the floor 13 different times identifying nuclear waste storage facilities all around the country. Most of the time they're generating stations. Sometimes they're Department of Defense waste sites like Hanford, Washington, which is the first place that I talked about.

Based upon our tally, we have 55 votes for a high-level nuclear waste central repository at Yucca Mountain. We have 22 individuals—we noticed two today—who have never taken a position whether the high-level nuclear waste should be in their State, in their locality, or in the desert underneath a mountain. We also have 23 that have cast votes or made statements against that.

Now, why is this tally important? Well, it only takes 60 votes to move a piece of legislation in the U.S. Senate, cloture debate based upon a filibuster than a simple majority vote. So the question is: When will these 22 Senators at least make some position statement on the high-level nuclear waste repository?

Now, there are four other Senators that I've included in this—two from Alaska, two from Hawaii. They have no nuclear waste in their State. But Senator BEGICH from Alaska has no stated position. Senator MURKOWSKI voted for the high-level nuclear waste storage site. She's also from Alaska. Senator AKAKA voted "no" in a 2002 vote. Senator INOUE voted "no" in a 2002 vote. So that finishes the culmination of all the Senators.

Based upon the problem in Japan with Fukushima Daiichi and the issue of high-level nuclear waste, isn't it about time we stop this administration's attack and move to Yucca Mountain?

ISSUES FACING AMERICA TODAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Let me, first of all, say how pleased I am to have Benjamin with me, who is representing and advocating for the fairness and treatment of the foster care system and foster children as they mature into adulthood. This is an important aspect of democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I come this morning with a series of issues regarding rights. First of all, let me acknowledge that this was Memorial Day week, when I hope all of us were doing more commemorating than possibly celebrating with tasty food. I had the privilege of joining our community in a national Memorial Day celebration at the Houston Veterans Cemetery and then going to The Heights, a historic community, and commemorating the fallen soldiers at the World War II Monument in The Heights of the 18th Congressional District. On this past Saturday, I had a fun festival day of veterans and celebration commemorating the service of our soldiers—those who have fallen and those who live.

That's why I rise today to ask and encourage—even after the NATO meeting—that we have a quick resolution of the Afghan war. And I join my colleagues, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE and WALTER JONES, in their discussion this afternoon of what's next in Afghanistan. We thank those soldiers on the front line. None of our commentary to bring this war to an end has anything to do with their brave, wonderful, heroic acts of service and fighting for democracy and justice.

We ask President Karzai and his government to end its corruptness and to begin to transition so that the people of Afghanistan can live in peace. We want peace as well, and we want their rights to prevail.

Mr. Speaker, I now move to a tragic situation of huge proportions. I joined Syrian Americans on Tuesday in my community, standing in front of the Federal courthouse, crying out for peace and justice for the Syrian people. Alongside of me were Syrian Americans whose families were in Houla and Homs and had seen the brutality. We had projections of the violence against children and bodies wrapped in white cloth.

Mr. Speaker, we cry out and wonder why there cannot be more done by the world. Where is the outrage?

I congratulate the Secretary of State and the President of the United States and other Western countries and others who have expelled the Syrian envoys. Get them out now because, obviously, Dr. Assad does not recognize that people are valued.

And so I call upon the Arab League to put pressure on China and Russia. Let us not put our individual needs of energy—oil and gas, oil in particular—over the deadly violence that is going on in Syria. Shame on you.

I ask the U.N. Security Council that is now blocked by China and Russia to institute a U.N. Unity of Peace Resolution No. 377, which was done during the Korean War, where you go to the General Assembly and put forward recommendations that would engage or provide for peace and provide for the involvement of other countries providing for the assistance of the Syrian free army.

No, I'm not asking for war. I'm asking for the end of the violence in Syria.

How can we stand by as we once stood by looking at Darfur, as we once stood by looking at Rwanda? How can we stand by?

I cry out for this Congress to issue sanctions. I cry out for actions.

Let me conclude by simply saying today we will have on the floor of the House a bill by the name of PRENDA. As I've heard from my colleagues, not one of us disagree with the idea of forced abortions, meaning that we do not disagree that that is heinous and horrific. I fear the PRENDA legislation because it is not thoughtful and has not been drafted in a way that distinguishes the rights of women in this Nation to have choice. And what it does, Mr. Speaker, is it criminalizes a doctor and criminalizes a relationship between a patient and a physician.

In this country, we have the right of choice. That choice is between a woman, her God, her faith, her family, and her physician. And what you do in PRENDA is that you taint and stigmatize the relationship between the doctor and the patient. Because how do you get in the mindset and the psyche of a physician who is doing his job providing the care that the woman has asked—her choice—and begin to demonize and suggest that she is forcibly deciding to abort because she is forcibly deciding what gender she wants?

Then, of course, you add insult to injury by profiling various countries. As my colleague has previously said, why can't we look for more positive ways of providing women's rights and discerning or educating people that women are equally valuable as human beings as men? But the PRENDA bill demonizes the patient-physician relationship. We cannot have that. I ask for a "no" vote.

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CONGRATULATING CAROL MARTIN GATTON ACADEMY OF MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science for being named America's Best Public High School for 2012 by Newsweek magazine.

Each year, Newsweek publishes a ranking of the Nation's top 1,000 public high schools. Schools are judged on criteria such as percentage of graduates accepted to college, advanced placement and international baccalaureate test scores, and average SAT scores. Year after year, one quarter of the schools making the list are located near major metropolitan areas. However, I am proud to announce that this year's number one school, the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science, is in my hometown of Bowling Green, Kentucky.

I witnessed firsthand the Gatton Academy grow from a dream of a few

committed individuals into a reality. I was serving in the Kentucky senate back in 2004 when rumblings of the school first began. Named after renowned Kentucky entrepreneur Carol Martin “Bill” Gatton, the school first opened its doors in 2007 to a select group of 126 public high school students. Aside from meeting stringent admission criteria, today’s Gatton Academy students embody a love and talent for science and math. Students there also share a common hunger for college-level academics, and that is exactly what they get at Gatton Academy.

Students are submerged in academics as they live and study in a residence hall built especially for them on Western Kentucky University’s campus. Most classes are college level and are taken on the WKU campus alongside college undergrads.

At the Gatton Academy, students break the traditional high school mold, trading locker-filled hallways and 8 a.m. bells for access to college-level innovative technology and the study of DNA and alternative fuels. Students work regularly with their instructors on scientific research projects, and also take advantage of the school’s study abroad programs. This past winter, several students had the opportunity to study in Western Europe and Costa Rica.

Students at the Gatton Academy graduate with more than just a high school diploma, as many students are well on their way to obtaining college and postgraduate degrees by the time they graduate high school.

The Gatton Academy is one of 16 residential public high schools in the Nation specializing in science, technology, engineering, and math—STEM subjects. In a world of increased global competitiveness, enhanced STEM education is critical if we want to remain one of the world’s most technologically advanced nations. I applaud the faculty and staff at both the Gatton Academy and WKU for fully recognizing this and making a commitment to the education of the Commonwealth’s best and brightest students.

Specifically, I would like to recognize the Gatton Academy’s executive director and visionary for the academy, Dr. Julia Roberts, and director Dr. Tim Gott, and congratulate them on this recognition, which is a testament to their years of hard work. I would also like to congratulate and thank Dr. Gary Ransdell, the president of Western Kentucky University, for making WKU’s partnership with the Gatton Academy possible.

Again, I offer my congratulations to the entire Gatton Academy community on this outstanding accomplishment. I look forward to following the future success of the Gatton Academy and its students.

FOSTER YOUTH SHADOW DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to participate in the Foster Youth Shadow Day Program in honor of National Foster Youth Month. Many of my colleagues today have been paired with a foster youth to give them a firsthand glimpse of life in and around the Capitol. It is our goal to encourage them to nurture their innate talents, develop their leadership qualities, and even explore potential careers here in Washington. I would like to thank all of the cochairs of the Congressional Caucus of Foster Youth, of which I am proud to be a member, for planning this important event today.

I am also pleased to be paired with Dee Saint-Franc, a young woman who shows us all what determination and perseverance truly look like. Coming from a family that took in foster children, one of my priorities in Congress has been to ensure that this population has every opportunity to access and achieve success. Drawing on her personal experiences and leadership abilities, Dee has emerged as a strong advocate on this issue.

I have had the privilege of working with Dee on issues affecting youth in the foster care system, and I have deep respect for her commitment, courage, and capabilities. Among her many accomplishments, she has demonstrated tremendous passion and skill through her role as board cochair of The Voice and as Rhode Island’s delegate to the New England Youth Coalition. She attained an associate’s degree in business management from Johnson & Wales University, and works for the Rhode Island Foster Parents Association.

Dee came under the care of the Department of Children, Youth and Families at the age of 7 years old. She lived in group homes and with foster families, and, unfortunately, at some point along the way became a victim of identity theft. This issue of identity theft came to my attention a few years ago, and Dee’s personal story, as well as the stories of numerous other foster youth brave enough to step forward, was crucial in passing legislation to deal with this problem.

I’m pleased to report that last year President Obama signed into law the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act, which contained a provision I authored to address identity theft in the foster care system. The measure requires States to provide foster youth ages 16 and older with a free copy of any consumer credit report pertaining to them while under State care, and to fix any problems if they are found so that when the child leaves State care, they do so with their identity and their credit intact. While this law would have protected Dee and others like her, she has nevertheless persevered and has done remarkable work with her peers in Rhode Island.

Moving forward, Congress needs to do its part to further support Dee’s efforts to level the playing field for foster

youth. I’m proud to support bipartisan legislation being introduced by caucus Members today to remove obstacles to ensuring that foster youth get the education that they deserve. We can all take simple steps to help them apply for State benefits and financial aid they need when they age out of the system, and I have introduced legislation for that very purpose.

Now at the age of 22, I am pleased to report that Dee is attending Rhode Island College, my alma mater, to pursue a bachelor’s degree in social work. I’m also proud that Dee is working to give something back to her community, and wants to focus her academic career in the area for which she is uniquely qualified. She is a role model for her daughter and for all of us here today. And perhaps, Mr. Speaker, one day she will be down speaking on the House floor herself in the not-too-distant future. I thank everyone for their support of Foster Care Awareness Month.

HONORING FORMER CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM WAMPLER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself, Representatives BOB GOODLATTE, and ROBERT HURT, I am deeply saddened to report the passing of a former Member of this body. On May 23, 2012, former Ninth District United States Congressman William Wampler passed away at his home in Bristol, Virginia. A man of principle, integrity, and courage, our Nation has truly lost a great man.

Born in Pennington Gap and raised in Bristol, Bill attended the Bristol public schools. The son of a hardware store businessman and a schoolteacher, Bill was a budding leader even in his youth. He was voted class president each of his 4 years at Virginia High School.

At the height of World War II in May of 1943, Bill, just 17 years old, enlisted in the United States Navy. For the next 27 months, Bill served as a seaman until the end of the war. Upon returning to southwest Virginia, Bill resumed his studies, pursuing his undergraduate degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1948 and then his law degree from the University of Virginia.

A Republican by birth, Bill joined the party his family supported because of its opposition to slavery. His first foray into politics came in 1948 while working as the Republican assistant campaign manager for the Ninth District congressional elections. Shortly thereafter, in 1953, at the ripe old age of 26, Bill was elected to the 83rd Congress. For the next 2 years, Bill had the distinction of being the youngest Member of Congress.

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Though Bill spent nearly 20 years in office, one incident from the 83rd Congress stayed with him for the rest of his life. On May 1, 1954, four Puerto